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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia  
(As of 1530 EDT)

1. The US Army attache in Czechoslovakia reports that as of 0800 EDT Prague appeared to be under complete Soviet military control. Soviet forces were sealing off all exits from the city. Together with East German, Polish, and Bulgarian forces, they had seized the main wartime command post of the Czechoslovak Army and were taking over a number of army garrisons in the city. The attache estimated that a minimum of 400 tanks were in Prague and that the city was encircled by about 12 artillery battalions.

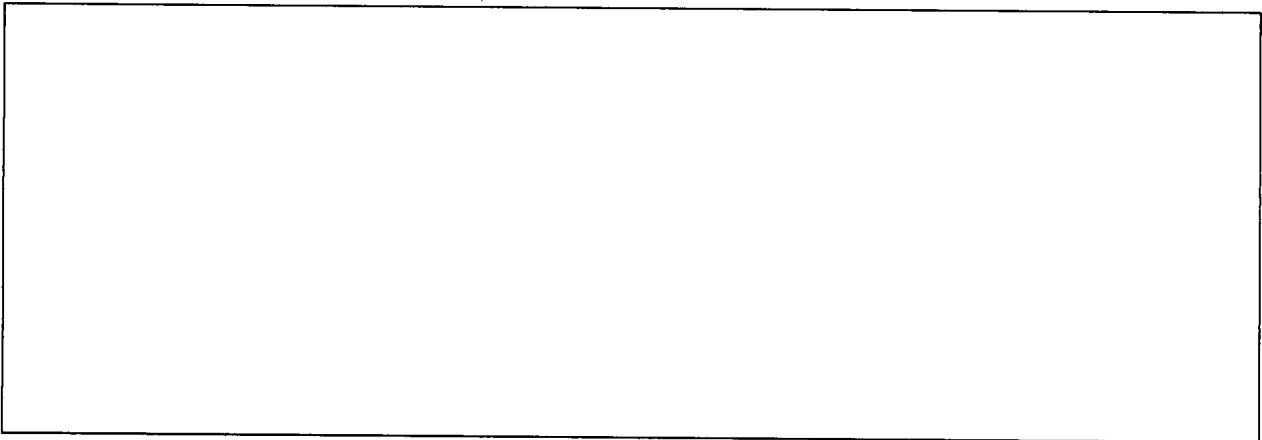
2. The total strength of the forces occupying Czechoslovakia cannot as yet be determined. Moscow in a domestic broadcast at 1350 hours EDT claimed that Warsaw Pact units had entered all towns of the Czechoslovak Republic without any resistance by Czech military units.

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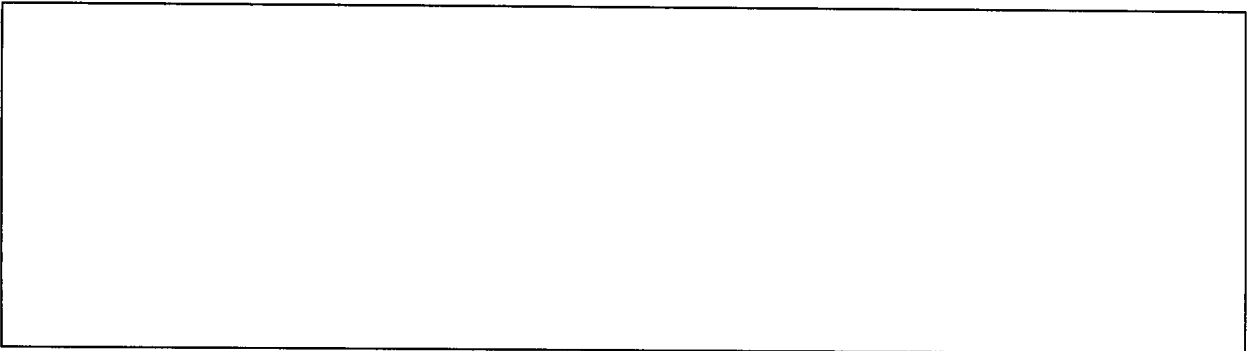
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3. The Czechoslovak news agency CTK has reported another shooting incident in which three Prague civilians were wounded. The US Army attache in Czechoslovakia also reports hearing small arms and some heavier calibre fire in many sectors of the city. However, he has witnessed no shooting incidents nor has he seen any wounded. CTK also reported that a Czechoslovak youth was killed and twenty were wounded this morning when Soviet troops passed through Kosice, in eastern Slovakia.

4. We cannot confirm a Radio Prague report that Polish troops in Czechoslovakia began returning to home garrisons in Poland at 0800 EDT.



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6. Prague leaders met with Soviet officials this morning in central party headquarters, presumably to discuss changes in the composition of the Czechoslovak party leadership. All ranking Czechoslovak leaders are in Prague except Foreign Minister Hajek and Deputy Minister Ota Sik, the CSSR's leading economist, who are in Yugoslavia.

7. [redacted] the Soviet tactics in the present situation difficult to assess. [redacted]

[redacted] despite their military power the Soviets have not installed a ready made puppet government and may be doing their best to put as good a face as possible on their intervention. [redacted] if the Soviets do not quickly produce "their" regime, they may face a sticky situation as the legally constituted organs of the Czechoslovak government meet and take stands against Moscow's action.

8. Parliamentary deputies who were able to meet this morning reportedly called for a full National Assembly session and issued a statement protesting the intervention. Following

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a meeting of the Czechoslovak cabinet this morning, a group of 11 ministers, including interior minister Pavel are said to have endorsed the Dubcek leadership and condemned the intervention.

9. All foreigners and a limited number of Czechoslovaks were being permitted to leave the country, [redacted]

[redacted] Only Czechoslovak citizens and diplomats stationed in the Eastern bloc countries, however, were being permitted to enter Czechoslovakia.

10. A Reuters despatch from Moscow quotes diplomatic sources as saying that the BBC noon news broadcast was completely inaudible on all wave lengths because of Soviet programs or intense background noise. A West German correspondent in Moscow has reported that western radio programs in both Russian and English are being affected.

11. Eastern European participants in the invasion have echoed the Soviet rationale for intervention. The first Polish announcement justified intervention as a request by the Czechoslovak "party and government leadership" which later editions altered to read "party and state activists."

12. A joint session of the Rumanian party, government and mass organizations produced a communique on 21 August which expresses full solidarity with the Czechoslovak people

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and the Czechoslovak Communist party. A statement today by Tito was softer in tone, probably a reflection of his concern that unrest might be sparked in Yugoslavia. [redacted]

[redacted]

14. Access to West Berlin has thus far been unimpeded. A small group of Berliners gathered in front of the Czechoslovak military mission this morning and a mass meeting in support of the Czechoslovaks is scheduled for this evening. The rapid transit system between the two parts of the city was closed down for approximately 45 minutes this morning by the East Germans, allegedly because of a "power failure". East German border patrols along the Wall have been doubled.

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